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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Vittorio de Nora and Thinh T. Nguyen

Examiner: TBD

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicants' preliminarily amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2.